

File No.: 04-1000-20-2024-599

October 17, 2024

s.22(1)

Dear s.22(1)

Re: **Request for Access to Records under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the "Act")**

I am responding to your request of September 25, 2024 under the ***Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*** for:

All correspondence (internal and external) to and from the Mayor's Office regarding plans to remove the elected Park Board. Date range: November 7, 2022 to December 6, 2023.

All responsive records are attached. Some information in the records has been severed (blacked out) under s.13(1), s.15(1)(l), s.17(1), and s.21(1) of the Act. You can read or download these sections here:

http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/96165_00.

Under section 52 of the Act, and within 30 business days of receipt of this letter, you may ask the Information & Privacy Commissioner to review any matter related to the City's response to your FOI request by writing to: Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner, info@oipc.bc.ca or by phoning 250-387-5629.

If you request a review, please provide the Commissioner's office with: 1) the request number (2024-599); 2) a copy of this letter; 3) a copy of your original request; and 4) detailed reasons why you are seeking the review.

Yours truly,

[Signed by Cobi Falconer]

Cobi Falconer, MAS, MLIS, CIPP/C
Director, Access to Information & Privacy

If you have any questions, please email us at foi@vancouver.ca and we will respond to you as soon as possible. You may also contact 3-1-1 (604-873-7000) if you require accommodation or do not have access to email.

Encl. (Response Package)

:kt

From: ["Pavone, Connie" <connie.pavone@vancouver.ca>](mailto:connie.pavone@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Ford, Trevor" <Trevor.Ford@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Trevor.Ford@vancouver.ca)

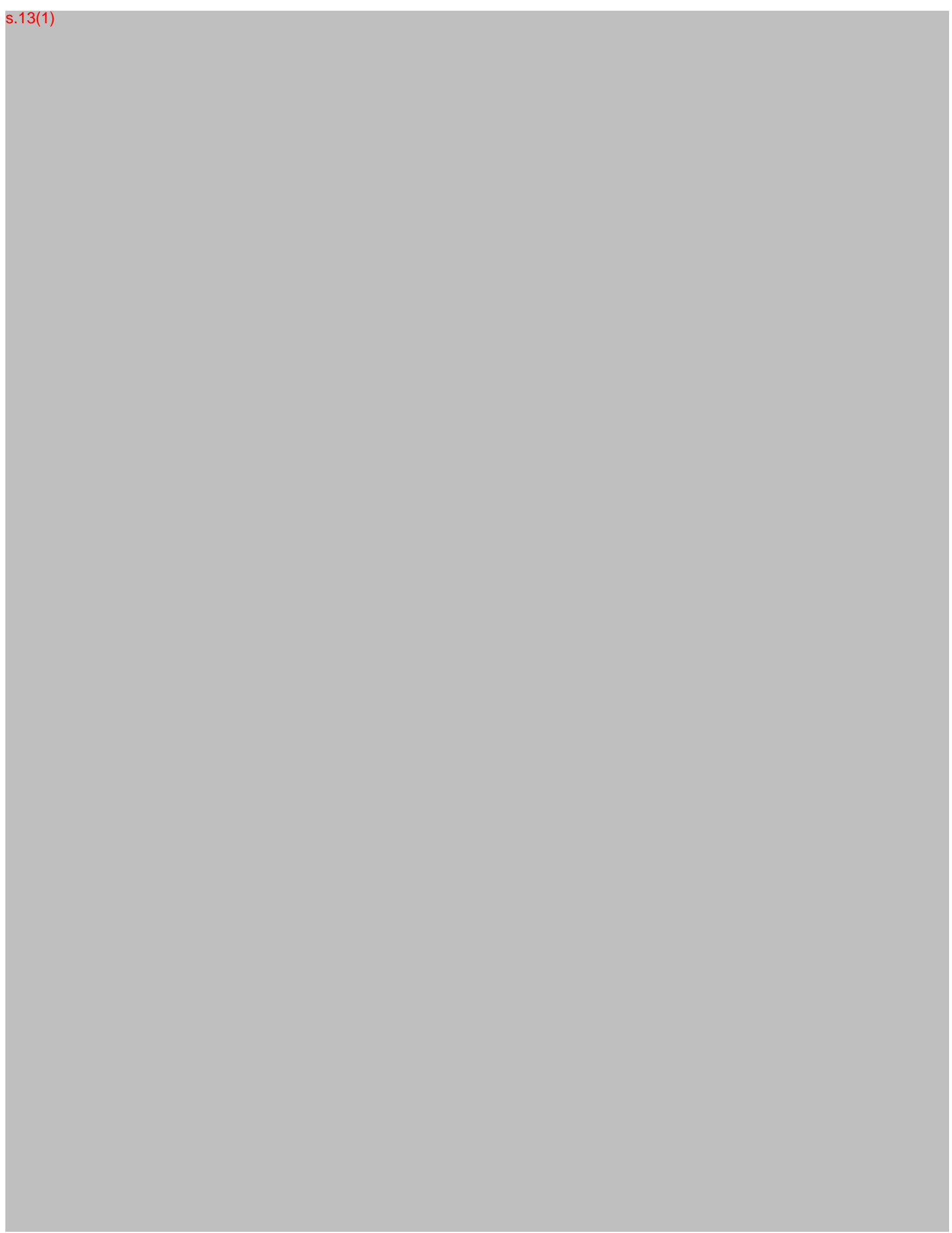
CC: ["Morphy, Mellisa" <Mellisa.Morphy@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Mellisa.Morphy@vancouver.ca)

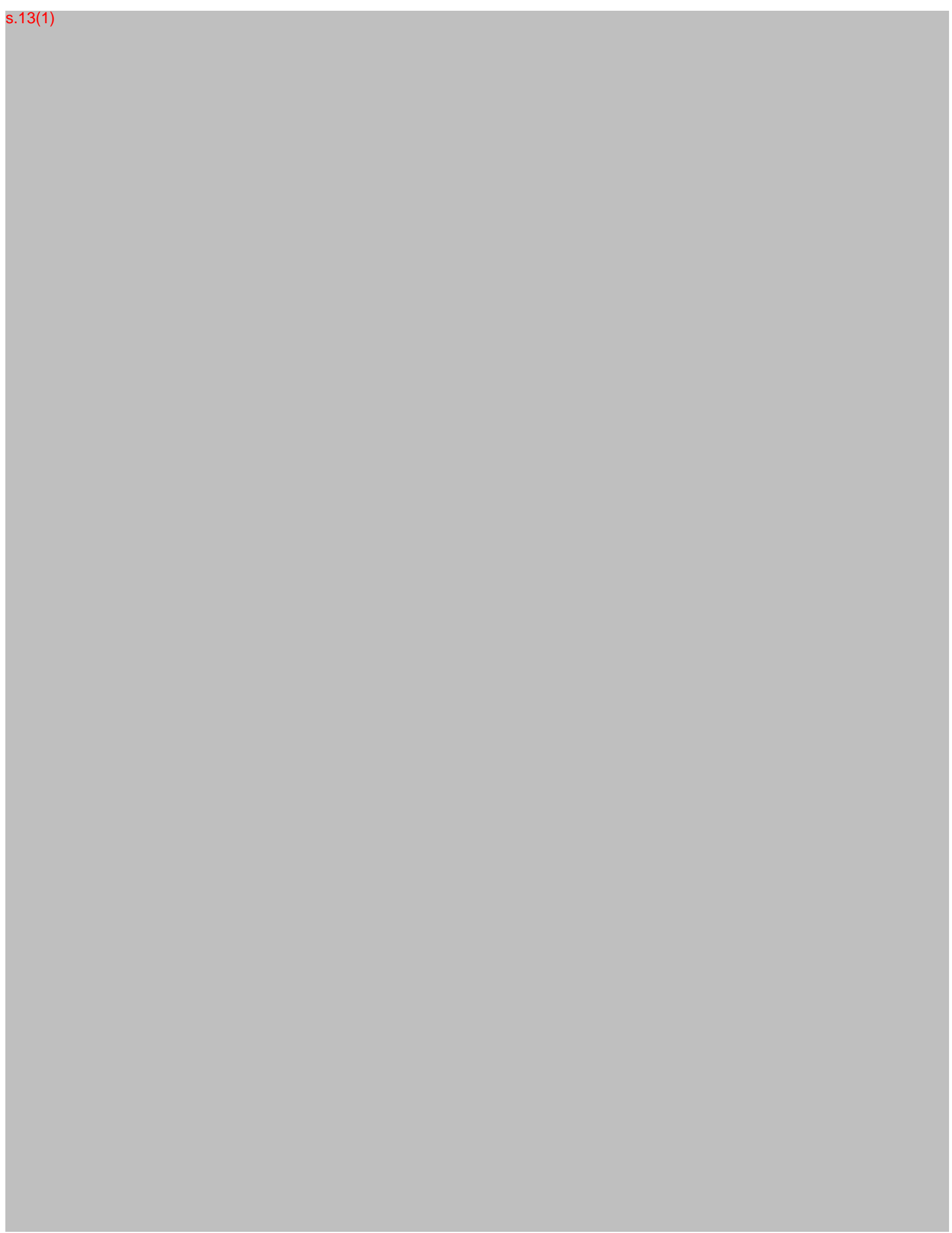
Date: 12/1/2023 5:10:12 PM

Subject: Blank Copies of NDAs (both versions)

Attachments: Draft NDA 20231201v2.docx

Draft NDA 20231201.docx





From: "Robyn Crawford" <Robyn.Crawford@rci.rogers.com>
To: "Veras, Maria" <Maria.Veras@vancouver.ca>
CC: "HanaMae Nassar" <HanaMae.Nassar@rci.rogers.com>
"James Paracy" <James.Paracy@rci.rogers.com>
Date: 12/5/2023 4:28:39 PM
Subject: City News 1130 request

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Hey Maria,

Robyn Crawford here from City News 1130 Vancouver.

We just interviewed Park Board Commissioner Tom Digby.

He is claiming the Mayor has plans to ask the premier to abolish the Park Board.

He is also claiming there is an ABC-only meeting tonight to discuss the Vancouver charter related to the Park Board ahead of the Mayor's press conference tomorrow.

Does the Mayor have comment on any of these claims?

I know it is the end of the day, but we are planning to go with what Tom is saying—attributing to him—this evening.

Please let me know if we will be able to get comment.

Thanks,
Robyn

Robyn Crawford (pronouns: she/her)
Assistant News Director/ Afternoon Drive Producer

CityNews 1130 Vancouver
2440 Ash Street
Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 4J6

robyn.crawford@rci.rogers.com

o 604-877-4400

c 778-928-6007

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From: "Veras, Maria" <Maria.Veras@vancouver.ca>
To: "Yao, Luhan" <Luhan.Yao@vancouver.ca>
Date: 4/11/2024 11:38:42 AM
Subject: FW: DRAFT Key Messages - PB
Attachments: DRAFT Key Messages - PB.docx

From: Morphy, Mellisa <Mellisa.Morphy@vancouver.ca>
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 3:11 PM
To: Veras, Maria <Maria.Veras@vancouver.ca>
Subject: FW: DRAFT Key Messages - PB

From: Morphy, Mellisa
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 5:54 PM
To: Katy Merrifield <katy.merrifield@wellingtonadvocacy.com>; Photi Sotiropoulos <photi.sotiropoulos@wellingtonadvocacy.com>; Kayla Iafelice <Kayla.iafelice@wellingtonadvocacy.com>
Cc: Ford, Trevor <Trevor.Ford@vancouver.ca>
Subject: DRAFT Key Messages - PB

Hi All,

Please see attached the key messages for the PB item.

If you have any questions come Monday – please do not hesitate to reach.

Cheers,

Mellisa Morphy (*she/her*) | Deputy Chief of Staff + Director of Policy
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver
M: [s.15\(1\)\(\)](tel:s.15(1)()) | O: 604-871-6582
mellisa.morphy@vancouver.ca



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.



From: "Veras, Maria" <Maria.Veras@vancouver.ca>
To: "Morphy, Mellisa" <Mellisa.Morphy@vancouver.ca>
Date: 4/11/2024 11:38:42 AM
Subject: FW: global news re: Park Board audit report - Ken Sim interview request

From: Kristen Robinson <Kristen.Robinson@globalnews.ca>
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 10:57 AM
To: Veras, Maria <Maria.Veras@vancouver.ca>
Subject: global news re: Park Board audit report - Ken Sim interview request

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Hi Maria,

We are checking to see if Ken Sim would like to weigh in on the Park Board audit report – given he initially promised to abolish the elected Park Board and roll it back under the authority of city council:

<https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/2023-park-board-revenue-management-audit-report.pdf>

[https://globalnews.ca/news/7763757/vancouver-park-board-abolish-ken-sim-promise/ \[globalnews.ca\]](https://globalnews.ca/news/7763757/vancouver-park-board-abolish-ken-sim-promise/)

Please let me know if he's around city hall for a quick interview before 3pm today.

We will be at city hall around noon for another interview so if the mayor wanted to step out 1220-1230pm, we'd be able to accommodate.

Thank you,
Kristen

Kristen Robinson

Global News, a division of Corus Entertainment Inc.
C:604.561.8840

W: 778.945.9366
E:kristen.robinson@globalnews.ca

T:@KRobNews1

From: ["Morphy, Mellisa" <Mellisa.Morphy@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Mellisa.Morphy@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Veras, Maria" <Maria.Veras@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Maria.Veras@vancouver.ca)

Date: 4/11/2024 11:38:42 AM

Subject: FW: Speaking Notes Weds Dec 6

Attachments: Speaking notes - Weds Dec 6th.docx

From: Morphy, Mellisa
Sent: Saturday, December 2, 2023 2:25 PM
To: Sim, K [s.15\(1\)\(l\)](#)
Cc: Ford, Trevor <Trevor.Ford@vancouver.ca>
Subject: Speaking Notes Weds Dec 6

Hi Ken,

Attached are the speaking notes for weds

Cheers,

Mellisa Morphy (*she/her*) | Deputy Chief of Staff + Director of Policy
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver
M: [s.15\(1\)\(l\)](#) O: 604-871-6582
mellisa.morphy@vancouver.ca



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

Mayor Ken Sim's Speaking Remarks (press conference)

- Good morning,
- [Land Acknowledgment]
- Thank you for joining us today as we look to the future of Vancouver's parks and recreation facilities and affirm our commitment to making Vancouver's parks and recreation facilities the best in the world.
- Today, we are taking a long overdue step that will ensure our parks and recreation facilities are able to serve our community to their fullest potential.
- It is vitally important at this moment in time that we take bold action to elevate the care of these essential spaces and bring a new level of accountability that will ensure the long term viability of our parks and recreation services.

- That is why, I am bringing a motion forward to Council next week that asks the Province to amend the Vancouver Charter to eliminate the requirement for an elected Park Board.
- This will bring parks and recreation under the direct control of City Council.
- Make no mistake about it: In our pursuit of progress and value for the people of Vancouver, we are aligning the management structure for parks and recreation with how it is done in every other major city in the country.
- As with all things in life, we must learn from others if we want to progress and grow. And what we have learned in recent years is that how we've been managing our parks and recreation system has not been working and is irretrievably broken.
- The steps we are announcing today will allow us to manage Vancouver's parks and recreation facilities more collaboratively and in harmony with the City's broader priorities.

- Our parks are our city's jewels, and our commitment to preserving these green spaces remains unwavering. This change is about managing these spaces more efficiently, not about compromising them.
- This change will ensure that our parks and recreation facilities finally get the care and attention they deserve and they can be restored to the gems they once were.
- Beyond the opportunities for improved services, we know that adopting this new streamlined governance approach – in alignment with every other city in Canada – s.13(1), s.17(1) s.13(1), s.17(1).
- This savings will result from substantial efficiencies, which will free up a huge quantity of staff time - which means more things will get done more quickly with existing staff levels which also avoids future incremental operating costs.
- Let's be clear here: The decision to introduce this motion was not made in isolation.

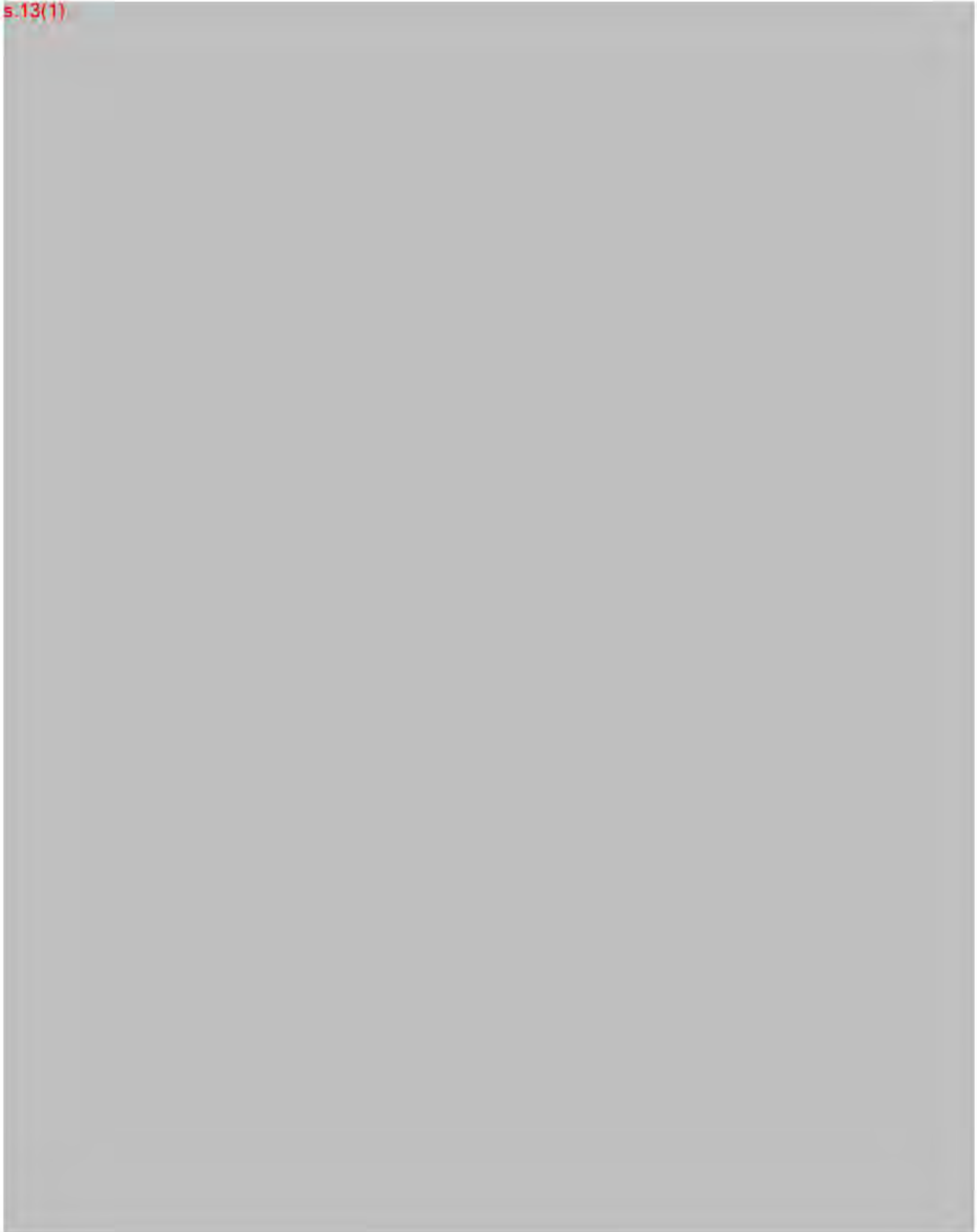
- We have the backing of a wide range of community leaders, including those who have served on the Park Board and who acknowledge the need for change.
- Their support speaks volumes about the positive impact we expect to make on our community.
- Every dollar saved is a dollar we'll invest back into the city, strengthening the fabric of our community, enhancing the vibrancy of Vancouver, allowing us to live in a Vancouver that is not just a place to live, but a place to thrive.
- Thriving means having spaces that aren't just office blocks and houses.
- It's our precious communal spaces like parks that bring us together. And it's for this reason that our commitment to improving our parks and recreation facilities is unwavering.

- I believe in this strategy and the vision I am advancing today, and I promise that I will stand by this commitment as your Mayor.
- But my voice alone is only one of many voices. And as Vancouverites all our voices count.
- So make no mistake about it: the transition to this new model will be inclusive and transparent.
- That's why we will also be establishing a Parks and Recreation Advisory Task Force to ensure the smooth transition of responsibility for parks and recreation services, from the current elected Park Board to Vancouver's City Council.
- The Task force will have a mandate to coordinate the ongoing engagement and relationships with park and recreation stakeholders and bring community perspectives to the forefront.
- Staff will also be working to develop a transition plan, through which more exact savings will be identified and developed.

- And for those who may worry what this means for our cherished green spaces, know this: The same protections that have always been in place will remain in place.
- We are making decisions about a clear vision for the future—a future where our parks are protected, properly maintained, and enjoyed by all.
- And make no mistake about it; Your views, your voice and, most of all, your continued commitment to our city’s incredible parks and our recreation facilities are essential in shaping this new chapter in the long legacy of parks and recreation in Vancouver.
- Today marks a turning point and a new approach to improving and preserving our city’s beloved green spaces and community centres. And I invite you all to join us as we move forward into the future with renewed purpose and vision.

- Thank you.

s.13(1)



s.13(1)



Pavone, Connie

From: Morphy, Mellisa
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 10:58 AM
To: Photi Sotiropoulos
Cc: Katy Merrifield; Kayla lafelice
Subject: RE: Mayor's remarks

Thank you Photi!

Cheers,

Mellisa Morphy (*she/her*) | Deputy Chief of Staff + Director of Policy
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver
M: s.15(1)(l) | O: 604-871-6582
mellisa.morphy@vancouver.ca



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From: Photi Sotiropoulos <photi.sotiropoulos@wellingtonadvocacy.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 10:49 AM
To: Morphy, Mellisa <Mellisa.Morphy@vancouver.ca>
Cc: Katy Merrifield <katy.merrifield@wellingtonadvocacy.com>; Kayla lafelice <Kayla.iafelice@wellingtonadvocacy.com>
Subject: Mayor's remarks

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Hi Mellisa,

I am having trouble sending the email for some reason. It keeps bouncing back, likely my plane's wifi. So pasting it below instead of attaching the word document. I have provided a few options of the opening paragraph. The majority of the key messaging has also been incorporated. Let me know if you have any changes or questions.

Photi

Mayor Ken Sim's Speaking Remarks

- Good morning,
- Today, we gather on [INSERT PLACE NAME AND LAND RECOGNITION HERE] to affirm our utmost commitment to the future of Vancouver's parks.
- Today marks a turning point, a chance to enhance our beloved green spaces.
- Today, we ensure our parks serve our community to their fullest potential.
- Today, by offering parks the management they deserve, we can make Vancouver a leader in outdoor spaces across Canada.

Alternate Opening Paragraphs:

- *"Good morning,*
- *In the heart of Vancouver, our parks stand as symbols of the city's commitment to the environment, to community, and to natural beauty.*
- *Today, we pledge to elevate the care of these spaces, by ensuring a new era of parks with the enhanced management that they deserve.*
- *"Good morning,*
- *Vancouver thrives on the greenery of its parks. From fond walks with loved ones to the joys of children running*

through the grass, our parks provide the common grounds where memories are made.

- *This is why we're here to announce a new era of parks in Vancouver which will secure and improve these precious spaces for generations to come."*
- *"Good morning,*
- *As I look out onto the landscapes that make our city a haven for greenery within the greys of tarmac and silver of skyscrapers, I am filled with pride of what we have achieved.*
- *It's with this pride that , we chart a new era for our parks today—an era that will bring our park management to new heights of efficiency and community benefit."*
- To do this, we must learn from others.
- That is why, in our pursuit of progress and value, we have aligned our strategy with other major Canadian cities where these measures have been successful.
- We know that adopting these practices will s.13(1), s.17(1)
s.13(1), s.17(1)
- This decision is not made in solitude.
- We have the backing of influential leaders, including those who have served on the park board and who now acknowledge the need for change.

- Their support speaks volumes about the positive impact we expect to make on our community.
- Every dollar saved is a dollar we'll invest back into the city, strengthening the fabric of our community, enhancing the vibrancy of Vancouver, allowing us to live in a Vancouver that is not just a place to live, but a place to thrive.
- Thriving means having spaces that aren't just office blocks and houses.
- It's our precious communal spaces that bring us together. It is for this reason that we are committed to improving our parks.
- This is why we are taking proactive steps to ensure that they are managed in the best way possible.
- I believe in this strategy and I promise that I will stand by this commitment as your Mayor.
- But my voice alone is one of many Vancouverites, and all our voices count in our community.
- Therefore, the transition to this new model will be inclusive and transparent.
- We are establishing a Parks Advisory Committee to bring your perspectives to the forefront.
- We are making decisions with a clear vision for the future—a future where our parks are preserved, protected, and enjoyed by all.

- And for those who cherish our green spaces, know this: any major changes to our parklands will involve you through a public referendum.
- Your views, your voice and, most of all, your continued commitment to our parks are essential in shaping the legacy of Vancouver's parks.
- Thank you.

Photi Sotiropoulos

Director, Strategic Communications

📞 437-833-6663
🌐 wellingtonadvocacy.com
📧 [\[wellingtonadvocacy.com\]](mailto:wellingtonadvocacy.com)



From: [Morphy, Mellisa](#)
To: [Smith, George PREM:EX](#)
Cc: [Ford, Trevor](#)
Subject: RE: CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT RELEASE Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim Seeks Amendment to the Vancouver Charter to Remove the Elected Park Board
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 5:41:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thanks for the heads up George!

Cheers,

Mellisa Morphy (*she/her*) | Deputy Chief of Staff + Director of Policy
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver
M: [s.15\(1\)\(l\)](#) | O: 604-871-6582
mellisa.morphy@vancouver.ca



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From: Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 5:24 PM
To: Morphy, Mellisa <Mellisa.Morphy@vancouver.ca>
Subject: Re: CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT RELEASE Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim Seeks Amendment to the Vancouver Charter to Remove the Elected Park Board

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Thanks for this Mellisa!
Here's the early draft of our reactive statement:

s.13(1)

-

George Smith (he/him)

Director of Communications

Office of the Premier

250-208-6794

From: Morphy, Mellisa <Mellisa.Morphy@vancouver.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 2:21:37 PM
To: Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT RELEASE Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim Seeks
Amendment to the Vancouver Charter to Remove the Elected Park Board

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi George,

Attached is the draft release.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Cheers,

Mellisa Morphy (she/her) | Deputy Chief of Staff + Director of Policy

Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver

M: s.15(1)(l) | O: 604-871-6582

mellisa.morphy@vancouver.ca<<mailto:mellisa.morphy@vancouver.ca>>

[\[cid:image001.png@01D4B88B.4D417F50\]](#)

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From: "Yao, Luhan" <Luhan.Yao@vancouver.ca>

To: "Runnals, Paul (Brand Live)" <prunnals@brandlivegroup.com>

Date: 4/11/2024 11:38:42 AM

Subject: RE: Confidential: Quote

Attachments: FINAL RELEASE Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim Seeks Amendment to the Vancouver Charter to Remove the Elected Park Board.pdf

Hi Paul,

Thank you for sharing your title!

Please see attached our Press Release for tomorrow, which will be released at 10am in the morning. Please keep the release confidential until 10am at December 6th, 2023.

Thank you again for your time and engagement!

Best,
Luhan

From: Paul Runnals <prunnals@brandlivegroup.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 12:39 PM

To: Yao, Luhan <Luhan.Yao@vancouver.ca>

Subject: Re: Confidential: Quote

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Hi Luhan,

Thanks.

The best title would be "Executive Producer - Honda Celebration of Light"

Paul

PAUL RUNNALS - he/him/his
PARTNER / SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT; CREATIVE & PRODUCTION

E prunnals@brandlivegroup.com

C 604.612.4392

T 604.733.7171

BRANDLIVE

400 - 22 E. 5th Avenue
Vancouver, BC, V5T 1G8

brandlivegroup.com [brandlivegroup.com]

As a settler, I am grateful to live and work on the unceded traditional territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̅əm (Musqueam), Skwx̱u817_wú7mesh (Squamish), and Seíłwítulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

On Tue, Dec 5, 2023 at 12:10 PM Yao, Luhan <Luhan.Yao@vancouver.ca> wrote:
Hi Paul,

Thank you for sharing your edits with us! We will include the updated quote you provided us in the press release.

Could you please let me know what title you would like us to use in the release?

The final release will be send out at 10am tomorrow. We will send you the release once we finalize all the quotes.

Thanks,

Luhan

From: Paul Runnals <prunnals@brandlivegroup.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 11:32 AM
To: Yao, Luhan <Luhan.Yao@vancouver.ca>
Subject: Re: Confidential: Quote

Hi Luhan,

s.13(1)

Please let me know if this is acceptable as is, and can you confirm what time tomorrow the final release will be sent out, and I'd appreciate if you can share me a final copy in advance of the release as it's likely that media may reach out to me for comment...

Thanks,
Paul

PAUL RUNNALS - he/him/his
PARTNER / SENIOR VP; CREATIVE & PRODUCTION

E prunnals@brandlivegroup.com
C 604.612.4392
T 604.733.7171

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400 - 22 E. 5th Avenue
Vancouver, BC, V5T 1G8
brandlivegroup.com [brandlivegroup.com]

As a settler, I am grateful to live and work on the unceded traditional territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the x m k y m (Musqueam), S wx\u0817 _w\u07mesh (Squamish), and Sel\u07witulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

On Dec 4, 2023, at 5:00 PM, Yao, Luhan <Luhan.Yao@vancouver.ca> wrote:

Hi Paul,

Based on the conversations and context provided yesterday, we've typed up a draft quote for your review and feedback. Please feel free to adjust how you see fit - this is intended to serve as a thought starter. If you could send any changes to us by 2pm, Tuesday December 5th, we would greatly appreciate it.

s.13(1)

I have also attached the draft press release for context. Please note the release is not for distribution and we ask that you do not share it. In addition, could you please let me know what title you would like us to use in the release. The quotes will be featured below the press release.

As we are still waiting on approval for quotes from other stakeholders, they are not included in this draft, but I can share that there are approx. 8 other individuals who will be quoted.

Thanks,

Luhan Yao (she/her) | Research Assistant
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver

<image001.png>

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From: Paul Runnals <prunnals@brandlivegroup.com>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 10:23 AM
To: Yao, Luhan <Luhan.Yao@vancouver.ca>
Subject: Re: Confidential: Quote

Thanks...are you able to share the draft release with me so I can see how my quote is positioned and who else is being quoted?

s.21(1)

cheers,
Paul

PAUL RUNNALS - he/him/his
PARTNER / SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT; CREATIVE & PRODUCTION

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T 604.733.7171

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400 - 22 E. 5th Avenue
Vancouver, BC, V5T 1G8

brandlivegroup.com [brandlivegroup.com] [[google.com](https://www.google.com)]

As a settler, I am grateful to live and work on the unceded traditional territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the x m k y m (Musqueam), S wx\u03b1817_w\u03b17mesh (Squamish), and Sel\u03b9lwitlh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

On Mon, Dec 4, 2023 at 10:19 AM Yao, Luhan <Luhan.Yao@vancouver.ca> wrote:

Hi Paul,

Sounds good! We will send you a draft quote for review and edits shortly! Thank you!

Best,
Luhan

From: Paul Runnals <prunnals@brandlivegroup.com>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 10:16 AM
To: Yao, Luhan <Luhan.Yao@vancouver.ca>
Subject: Re: Confidential: Quote

Hi Luhan,

Trevor indicated you would send me a draft that I could review/tweak...

Thanks,
Paul

PAUL RUNNALS - he/him/his
PARTNER / SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT; CREATIVE & PRODUCTION

E prunnals@brandlivegroup.com
C 604.612.4392
T 604.733.7171

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Vancouver, BC, V5T 1G8

brandlivegroup.com [brandlivegroup.com] [[google.com](https://www.google.com)]

As a settler, I am grateful to live and work on the unceded traditional territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the x m k y m (Musqueam), S wx\u817_w\u7mesh (Squamish), and Sel\u00edwitlh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

On Mon, Dec 4, 2023 at 9:50 AM Yao, Luhan <Luhan.Yao@vancouver.ca> wrote:

Dear Paul,

It was a pleasure meeting you yesterday! Thank you for coming in.

As we are finalizing the press release, we would love to include a quote from you. Would you like to provide a quote or would you prefer us to draft a quote on your behalf which you could review and provide edits on? Thank you!

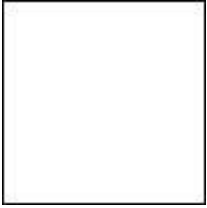
Best regards,

Luhan Yao (she/her) | Research Assistant
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver

<image001.png>

(Musqueam), S wx\u817 _wú7mesh (Squamish), and s lilw ta (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

<CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT RELEASE Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim Seeks Amendment to the Vancouver Charter to Remove the Elected Park Board.pdf>



Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim Seeks Amendment to the Vancouver Charter to Remove the Elected Park Board

Vancouver, B.C., December 6, 2023 – Mayor Ken Sim announced this morning that he is bringing forward a motion asking the Province to remove the requirement for an elected Park Board under the Vancouver Charter.

To accomplish this change, Mayor Sim will be introducing a motion at next Wednesday's Council meeting requesting that the Province amend and repeal the relevant sections of the Vancouver Charter, and for the legal powers currently held by the Park Board to be transferred to City Council.

Mayor Sim's motion states that in recent years, "it has become abundantly clear, given the poor state of Vancouver's parks, recreation services, and infrastructure, that a fundamental change in the governance structure is not only needed, it is the only viable path forward to efficient and effective parks and recreation services for the people of Vancouver."

"Make no mistake about it. Vancouver's parks, recreation services, and cultural assets are prized by Vancouverites and visitors alike and must be protected, maintained, and preserved indefinitely for future generations," said Mayor Sim. "The commitment I'm making to the people of our city today includes establishing stronger protections around any changes to our parks. This will be a new era for parks and recreation in our city."

Vancouver is the only municipality in the entire country with an elected park board. In every other city in Canada, parks and recreation services are managed directly by a parks and recreation department under the direction of their respective city councils.

Recently, Vancouver's independent Auditor General released a performance audit of the Park Board's revenue management practices. The audit determined that the Park Board did not operate an effective framework for achieving revenue-related objectives. Moreover, it found that the Park Board was not proactively engaging with City Council to align its priorities with available funding, despite the fact that all Park Board expenditures require the approval of City Council.

Vancouver's park and recreation assets include 250 public parks and beaches, including Stanley Park, VanDusen Botanical Garden, Bloedel Conservatory, a large public recreation system of 24 community centres, swimming pools, rinks and arenas, sports playing fields, playgrounds, fitness centres, three championship golf courses, street trees, and marinas among other services and facilities.

Mayor Sim's motion also calls for the creation of a Parks and Recreation Transition Working Group to facilitate a smooth transition of responsibility for park and recreation services from the current oversight by the Park Board to the oversight of City Council. The working group would be in place for six months to coordinate ongoing engagement and relationships with park and recreation stakeholders. It would be supported by City staff through the City Manager's Office.

s.13(1)



s.13(1)



Motion:

Amendment to the Vancouver Charter

Submitted by: Mayor Ken Sim

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver, including the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation ("Park Board"), is primarily created and governed by the *Vancouver Charter (VC)*, a provincial statute enacted in 1953 that incorporates the City of Vancouver;
2. The *VC* sets out the statutory powers and authorities which govern the City of Vancouver, and provides a range of powers and responsibilities different from those of other communities governed primarily by the *Community Charter ("CC")* and the *Local Government Act ("LGA")*;
3. The *VC* governs how the City operates, what by-laws Council can enact, and how budgets are determined. Under the *VC*, Council has the authority to enact by-laws to regulate such things as noise and land use, to buy and sell property, to collect certain taxes, to approve expenditures, and to take on debt, give grants, and hire and discharge employees;
4. The Park Board is established by section 485 of the *VC* (Part XXIII – Parks), which reads:

“A board of commissioners, to be known as the "Board of Parks and Recreation" or "Park Board," shall be elected as hereinafter provided, and shall consist of seven members or such other number as the Council may by by-law prescribe. The Board has the legal capacity to exercise the powers bestowed on it and to enforce those powers and the exercise thereof by actions, proceeding or prosecution.”;
5. The Park Board looks after 250 public parks and beaches, including Stanley Park, VanDusen Botanical Garden, Bloedel Conservatory, and a large public recreation system of 24 community centres, swimming pools, rinks and arenas, sport playing fields, playgrounds, fitness centres, three championship golf courses, street trees, and marinas, among other services and facilities;
6. The City of Vancouver is the only municipality in Canada with an elected park board, with the exception of the Cultus Lake Park Board which is made up of five elected Commissioners (i.e., three elected from the Cultus Lake Park jurisdiction and two elected from the City of Chilliwack jurisdiction);
7. Vancouver’s Auditor General (AGO) recently released a performance audit report of the revenue management practices of the Park Board. The audit determined that while some processes were used to inform fee-setting, the Park Board did not operate an effective framework for achieving revenue-related objectives for its revenue-generating assets and services;

8. The AGO's audit report further noted that the Park Board's overall funding structure, as set out in the *VC*, requires it to obtain City Council approval for all expenditures, including the expenditure of funds generated from revenue-generating activities. The audit found that while the Park Board has strategies to guide the delivery of parks and recreation services, it had not proactively engaged with City Council to align its priorities with available funding;
9. Vancouver's parks, recreation, and cultural assets are prized by Vancouverites and visitors alike and must be protected, maintained, and preserved sustainably and in good working order for future generations;
10. The Park Board, for most practical intents, functions like any other department of the City, albeit as a separate entity with significant independent authority through its elected board;
11. Over the years, the Province has amended the *VC* numerous times to accommodate the changing needs and priorities of the city. Some amendments have been significant while others have been consequential and/or incidental to other legislation introduced by the Province; and
12. In recent years it has become abundantly clear, given the poor state of Vancouver's parks, recreation services, and infrastructure, that a fundamental change in governance structure is not only needed, it is the only viable path forward to an efficient and effective parks and recreation service for the people of Vancouver.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council formally request that the Province of British Columbia amend or repeal section 485 of the *Vancouver Charter* ("*VC*") to remove the requirement for an elected board of commissioners, variously referenced in legislation and elsewhere as the "Board of Parks and Recreation" and/or "Park Board", including any and all consequential and/or incidental amendments required to the *VC* and/or other related legislation, including that any and all legal obligations of the Park Board be assumed by the City, and

FURTHER THAT the legal capacity to exercise the powers currently bestowed on the Park Board under the *VC*, and the authority to enforce those powers, shall be devolved to and bestowed upon Council, and the delivery of parks and recreation services shall be administered by the City in accordance with Council direction, and

FURTHER THAT, in accordance with the above, Council formally request that the Province of British Columbia amend the process for revoking and/or cancelling the designation of areas designated as permanent public parks of the City under the *VC*, notably under section 488 of the *VC* ("Parks in care of Board"), to a unanimous vote of all Council members, along with provisions for a public referendum.

- B. THAT a Parks and Recreation Transition Working Group (“PRTWG”) (Type D advisory body) be convened to facilitate the smooth transition of responsibility for park and recreation services, from the current oversight by an elected Park Board to the oversight of Council, and

FURTHER THAT the PRTWG shall have a time-limited mandate of six (6) months to coordinate the ongoing engagement and relationships with park and recreation stakeholders, supported by City staff, and be comprised of the Mayor, the Mayor’s Chief of Staff, two City Councillors appointed by the Mayor, a current Park Board Commissioner appointed by the Mayor, and up to six (6) members of the public appointed by the Mayor, with Terms of Reference for the working group to be determined by the Mayor in consultation with, and under the advisement of, the City Manager and the General Manager of Parks and Recreation.

* * * * *

From: "Yao, Luhan" <Luhan.Yao@vancouver.ca>

To: "Runnals, Paul (Brand Live)" <prunnals@brandlivegroup.com>

Date: 4/11/2024 11:38:42 AM

Subject: RE: Confidential: Quote

Attachments: CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT RELEASE Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim Seeks Amendment to the Vancouver Charter to Remove the Elected Park Board.pdf

Hi Paul,

Based on the conversations and context provided yesterday, we've typed up a draft quote for your review and feedback. Please feel free to adjust how you see fit – this is intended to serve as a thought starter. If you could send any changes to us by 2pm, Tuesday December 5th, we would greatly appreciate it.

s.13(1)

I have also attached the draft press release for context. Please note the release is not for distribution and we ask that you do not share it. In addition, could you please let me know what title you would like us to use in the release. The quotes will be featured below the press release.

As we are still waiting on approval for quotes from other stakeholders, they are not included in this draft, but I can share that there are approx. 8 other individuals who will be quoted.

Thanks,

Luhan Yao (she/her) | Research Assistant
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

From: Paul Runnals <prunnals@brandlivegroup.com>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 10:23 AM
To: Yao, Luhan <Luhan.Yao@vancouver.ca>
Subject: Re: Confidential: Quote

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Do not click on links or open attachments unless you were expecting the email and know the content is safe.

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Thanks...are you able to share the draft release with me so I can see how my quote is positioned and who else is being quoted?

s.21(1)

cheers,
Paul

PAUL RUNNALS - he/him/his
PARTNER / SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT; CREATIVE & PRODUCTION

E prunnals@brandlivegroup.com

C 604.612.4392

T 604.733.7171

BRANDLIVE

400 - 22 E. 5th Avenue
Vancouver, BC, V5T 1G8

brandlivegroup.com [brandlivegroup.com]

As a settler, I am grateful to live and work on the unceded traditional territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the x m k y m (Musqueam), S wx\u817_wú7mesh (Squamish), and Selílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

On Mon, Dec 4, 2023 at 10:19\u8239 AM Yao, Luhan <Luhan.Yao@vancouver.ca> wrote:

Hi Paul,

Sounds good! We will send you a draft quote for review and edits shortly! Thank you!

Best,
Luhan

From: Paul Runnals <prunnals@brandlivegroup.com>

Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 10:16 AM

To: Yao, Luhan <Luhan.Yao@vancouver.ca>

Subject: Re: Confidential: Quote

Hi Luhan,

Trevor indicated you would send me a draft that I could review/tweak...

Thanks,
Paul

PAUL RUNNALS - he/him/his
PARTNER / SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT; CREATIVE & PRODUCTION

E prunnals@brandlivegroup.com

C 604.612.4392

T 604.733.7171

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400 - 22 E. 5th Avenue
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On Mon, Dec 4, 2023 at 9:50\u8239 AM Yao, Luhan <Luhan.Yao@vancouver.ca> wrote:

Dear Paul,

It was a pleasure meeting you yesterday! Thank you for coming in.

As we are finalizing the press release, we would love to include a quote from you. Would you like to provide a quote or would you prefer us to draft a quote on your behalf which you could review and provide edits on? Thank you!

Best regards,

Luhan Yao (she/her) | Research Assistant
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x m k y m (Musqueam), S wx\u817_wú7mesh (Squamish), and s lilw ta (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

From: "Mia Kohout" <mia@mobibikes.ca>
To: "Yao, Luhan" <Luhan.Yao@vancouver.ca>
Date: 12/5/2023 10:30:10 AM
Subject: Re: Confidential: Quotes

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Thanks for fixing that for me :)

Good luck!

Mia

On 2023-12-05 10:27 a.m., Yao, Luhan wrote:

Hi Mia,

Thank you so much for sharing your edits!

Parks are not capitalized in this context, so I have changed all the "Parks" in the quote to lower-cased as you can find below:

s.13(1)



Thank you again for your time and engagement!

Best regards,

Luhan

From: Mia Kohout <mia@mobibikes.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 10:00 AM
To: Yao, Luhan <Luhan.Yao@vancouver.ca>
Subject: Re: Confidential: Quotes

Hi Luhan,

I think you did a great job of encapsulating my view and support.

I've made a few small tweaks to the quote, see below. I'm also not sure if Parks should be capitalized or not?

s.13(1)



s.13(1)

Mia Kohout, General Manager, Vancouver Bike Share Inc (Mobi)

Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

Mia

On 2023-12-04 5:10 p.m., Yao, Luhan wrote:

s.13(1)

--

Mia Kohout (she/ her)

GENERAL MANAGER

mia@mobibikes.ca | (778) 833-3773

www.mobibikes.ca [mobibikes.ca] | info@mobibikes.ca



Mobi by Rogers is operated by Vancouver Bike Share Inc.

We acknowledge that Vancouver Bike Share operates on the unceded, occupied, ancestral and traditional homelands of the x m kw y m (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and S lílw ta /Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

--

Mia Kohout (she/ her)

GENERAL MANAGER

mia@mobibikes.ca | (778) 833-3773

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From: "Richard Zussman" <Richard.Zussman@globalnews.ca>
To: "Veras, Maria" <Maria.Veras@vancouver.ca>
Date: 12/6/2023 4:48:35 PM
Subject: Re: Global B.C. interview request

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Perfect. We will send camera there for 10:15 to set up

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From: Veras, Maria <Maria.Veras@vancouver.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 4:45:03 PM
To: Richard Zussman <Richard.Zussman@globalnews.ca>
Subject: RE: Global B.C. interview request

Hi Richard,

We can do 10:30am on Friday at City Hall.

Thank you,

Maria Veras (*she/her*) | Press Secretary
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver

From: Richard Zussman <Richard.Zussman@globalnews.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 4:37 PM
To: Veras, Maria <Maria.Veras@vancouver.ca>
Subject: Re: Global B.C. interview request

Any chance he has a slightly earlier window. The show airs at 2 and needs to be done in advance.

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: Veras, Maria <Maria.Veras@vancouver.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 4:35:42 PM
To: Richard Zussman <Richard.Zussman@globalnews.ca>
Subject: RE: Global B.C. interview request

Hi Richard,

Mayor Sim can do an on-camera interview at City Hall on Friday at 2pm.

Thank you,

Maria Veras (*she/her*) | Press Secretary
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver

From: Richard Zussman <Richard.Zussman@globalnews.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 4:33 PM
To: Veras, Maria <Maria.Veras@vancouver.ca>
Subject: RE: Global B.C. interview request

Zoom or on camera please.
Can get camera to the mayor.
Richard

From: Veras, Maria <Maria.Veras@vancouver.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 4:32 PM
To: Richard Zussman <Richard.Zussman@globalnews.ca>
Subject: RE: Global B.C. interview request

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Hi Richard,

Thank you for your email. Just looking to get some more details from you regarding this. Would you be looking for a phone, zoom or on-camera interview?

Thanks,

Maria Veras (*she/her*) | Press Secretary
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver

From: Richard Zussman <Richard.Zussman@globalnews.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 2:21 PM
To: Veras, Maria <Maria.Veras@vancouver.ca>
Subject: Global B.C. interview request

Hi Maria,

Hoping Mayor Sim could do an interview tomorrow or Friday about the Park Board. Would be for Focus BC, our weekly political show on Global.

Thanks,

Richard

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: "Kam, Olivia" <Olivia.Kam@vancouver.ca>
To: "O'Connor, Patrick" <Patrick.O'Connor@vancouver.ca>
"CC Meeting Coordinators - DL" s.15(1)(l)
CC: "Ford, Trevor" <Trevor.Ford@vancouver.ca>
"Morphy, Mellisa" <Mellisa.Morphy@vancouver.ca>
"Doherty, Conor" <Conor.Doherty@vancouver.ca>
Date: 12/4/2023 3:01:58 PM
Subject: RE: Please see the attached motion from Mayor Ken Sim for the December 13th Standing Committee on City Finance and Services

Received for the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services on December 13th.

Thank you,

Olivia Kam (she/her) | Meeting Coordinator
City Clerk's Office | City of Vancouver
olivia.kam@vancouver.ca



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x'm k'y'm (Musqueam), S'wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and s'lilw'ta (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

From: O'Connor, Patrick <Patrick.O'Connor@vancouver.ca>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 2:54 PM
To: CC Meeting Coordinators - DL s.15(1)(l)
Cc: Ford, Trevor <Trevor.Ford@vancouver.ca>; Morphy, Mellisa <Mellisa.Morphy@vancouver.ca>; O'Connor, Patrick <Patrick.O'Connor@vancouver.ca>; Doherty, Conor <Conor.Doherty@vancouver.ca>
Subject: Please see the attached motion from Mayor Ken Sim for the December 13th Standing Committee on City Finance and Services

Hello Meeting Coordinators:

Please see the attached motion from **Mayor Ken Sim** for the December 13th Standing Committee on City Finance and Services.

The motion is titled "**Amendment to the Vancouver Charter**" and notice of motion was given by the Mayor at the last Council meeting.

Could you please reply to this email to acknowledge receipt of the motion.

Thanks as always for your help.

Patrick

Patrick O'Connor | Director of Legislative Affairs
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver
604.873.7490 | Patrick.O'Connor@vancouver.ca



From: "Vineeta Prasad" <Vineeta.Prasad@globalnews.ca>
To: "Veras, Maria" <Maria.Veras@vancouver.ca>
Date: 12/6/2023 5:51:56 PM
Subject: RE: PRESS RELEASE - Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim Seeks Amendment to the Vancouver Charter to Remove the Elected Park Board

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My apologies Maria. Just got back from my children's after school activities. I appreciate the offer but not necessary.

Have a good evening,
Vineeta

From: Veras, Maria <Maria.Veras@vancouver.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 5:09 PM
To: Vineeta Prasad <Vineeta.Prasad@globalnews.ca>
Subject: RE: PRESS RELEASE - Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim Seeks Amendment to the Vancouver Charter to Remove the Elected Park Board

Hi Vineeta,

Just following up on my previous email, Councillor Kirby-Yung is available tomorrow morning for interview.

Thank you,

Maria Veras (*she/her*) | Press Secretary
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver

From: Veras, Maria
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 4:43 PM
To: Vineeta Prasad <Vineeta.Prasad@globalnews.ca>
Subject: RE: PRESS RELEASE - Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim Seeks Amendment to the Vancouver Charter to Remove the Elected Park Board

Hi Vineeta,

Sorry for my response. Unfortunately Mayor Sim is not available for interview at that time. However I am happy to reach out to Councillor Kirby Yung for interview

Thank you,

Maria Veras (*she/her*) | Press Secretary
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver

From: Vineeta Prasad <Vineeta.Prasad@globalnews.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 11:19 AM

To: Veras, Maria <Maria.Veras@vancouver.ca>

Subject: FW: PRESS RELEASE - Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim Seeks Amendment to the Vancouver Charter to Remove the Elected Park Board

Hi Maria,

Vineeta here from Global BC. I hope you are keeping well.

Reaching out on behalf of our Morning News. Is Mayor Sim available for an in-person (at our Burnaby studio) or zoom interview tomorrow morning to discuss this proposed amendment? Interview would be live to air at 7:10am – for about 5 minutes – with either Sonia Sunger or Jason Pires.

Please let me know when you can.

Thank you,
Vineeta

From: Mayor's Office Communications <Mayor.Media@vancouver.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 11:01 AM

To: Vineeta Prasad <Vineeta.Prasad@globalnews.ca>

Subject: PRESS RELEASE - Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim Seeks Amendment to the Vancouver Charter to Remove the Elected Park Board

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Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim Seeks Amendment to the Vancouver Charter to Remove the Elected Park Board

Vancouver, B.C., December 6, 2023 – Mayor Ken Sim announced this morning that he is bringing forward a motion asking the Province to remove the requirement for an elected Park Board under the Vancouver Charter.

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Mayor Sim's motion states that in recent years, "it has become abundantly clear, given the poor state of Vancouver's parks, recreation services, and infrastructure, that a fundamental change in the governance structure is not only needed, it is the only viable path forward to efficient and effective parks and recreation services for the people of Vancouver."

"Make no mistake about it. Vancouver's parks, recreation services, and cultural assets are prized by Vancouverites and visitors alike and must be protected, maintained, and preserved indefinitely for future generations," said Mayor Sim. "The commitment I'm making to the people of our city today includes establishing stronger protections around any changes to our parks. This will be a new era for parks and recreation in our city."

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parks and recreation services are managed directly by a parks and recreation department under the direction of their respective city councils.

Recently, Vancouver's independent Auditor General released a performance audit of the Park Board's revenue management practices. The audit determined that the Park Board did not operate an effective framework for achieving revenue-related objectives. Moreover, it found that the Park Board was not proactively engaging with City Council to align its priorities with available funding, despite the fact that all Park Board expenditures require the approval of City Council.

Vancouver's park and recreation assets include 250 public parks and beaches, including Stanley Park, VanDusen Botanical Garden, Bloedel Conservatory, a large public recreation system of 24 community centres, swimming pools, rinks and arenas, sports playing fields, playgrounds, fitness centres, three championship golf courses, street trees, and marinas among other services and facilities.

Mayor Sim's motion also calls for the creation of a Parks and Recreation Transition Working Group to facilitate a smooth transition of responsibility for park and recreation services from the current oversight by the Park Board to the oversight of City Council. The working group would be in place for six months to coordinate ongoing engagement and relationships with park and recreation stakeholders. It would be supported by City staff through the City Manager's Office.

Quotes:

Chief Wayne Sparrow - Musqueam First Nation

"This is definitely a step in the right direction. Having a single department with authority for park land in the city will benefit everyone, including the Musqueam Indian Band. As a local nation with many levels of formal and informal interaction with the City, the proposed streamlined structure will provide clarity and a single point of contact for engaging with the City on the issues that matter most to our people."

Lorraine Lowe - Executive Director, Dr. Sun-Yat Sen Garden Society

"The Dr. Sun-Yat Sen Garden Society of Vancouver provides engaging cultural events for the Vancouver community throughout the year. Since 2016, we have not been able to negotiate a renewed lease agreement with the Parks Board resulting in ongoing challenges around maintenance and investment in the space. I am optimistic that the motion being brought forward will alleviate some of the challenges our organization has faced over the years."

Mike Burdick – President, Marpole Community Board of Directors

"I am, along with our Community, all for change that will help simplify city processes. In our experience, this cannot happen soon enough. We look forward to working with Council directly to support the Marpole community, including the work currently underway to build the long awaited Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre. If these changes can make it easier for another Community to achieve their goals then we are all for it!"

Mia Kohout – General Manager, Vancouver Bike Share Inc. (Mobi)

"We are excited to see this motion come forward. Historically, establishing new Mobi Bike stations in parks has been complicated and slow because we have to work with two governmental bodies within the City of Vancouver. This change would simplify and speed up the approval process for Mobi stations in parks, eliminating unnecessary bureaucracy and allowing us to bring more active transportation services to our city."

Pall Beesla - South Asian Community Advocate + Vaisakhi Organizer

"South Vancouver has been overlooked for too long by past Park Boards. I applaud Mayor Ken Sim for proposing to collapse the Park Board. It's been clear for a very long time that things are not working well under the current structure, and change is overdue. There is a significant park and recreation deficit in the city, particularly in South Vancouver. Through organizing community events, we have seen many challenges and redundancy that make community building difficult because of inefficient processes."

Mark Cylwa – President, Vancouver United Football Club

"At Vancouver United our motto is 'Game, Club, Community'. With that in mind, we strive to develop young soccer players, not only as players who we hope will enjoy involvement in the game for their lifetime, but as individuals who will be active in the club, supportive of other club members, and contribute to the well-being of the community as a whole. A key issue in obtaining our goals is access to a safe, reliable inventory of fields space on which to run

programming and accommodate our growth. At Vancouver United FC, we support any initiative which has the goal of improving equal field access to all stakeholders in a fair, efficient and effective manner.”

Paul Runnals – Executive Producer, Honda Celebration of Light

“As a company that specializes in festivals and major events, we are focused on delivering safe, exciting and innovative events in the region. I support this motion as I believe it will streamline the festival permitting and approval process and will help to create a financially sustainable environment where organizers can bring even more diverse and engaging events to our city.”

Leigh Ramsden + Rod Akizuki, President + Treasurer of Vancouver Minor Softball Association

“The Vancouver Minor Softball Association, which provides softball for hundreds of girls and young women in Vancouver, is motivated to bring the benefits of youth sports to the next generation of female athletes in our city. As such, we are supportive of any measures which improve the fields and facilities we use, and their administration. We look forward to working hand in hand with the City to help engage with more girls and young women, and increase their opportunity to play sports as we move forward.”

Media contact:

Maria Veras, Press Secretary
Office of the Mayor
maria.veras@vancouver.ca

Motion:

Amendment to the Vancouver Charter

Submitted by: Mayor Ken Sim

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver, including the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (“Park Board”), is primarily created and governed by the *Vancouver Charter (VC)*, a provincial statute enacted in 1953 that incorporates the City of Vancouver;
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6. The City of Vancouver is the only municipality in Canada with an elected park board, with the exception of the Cultus Lake Park Board which is made up of five elected Commissioners (i.e., three elected from the Cultus Lake Park jurisdiction and two elected from the City of Chilliwack jurisdiction);
7. Vancouver’s Auditor General (AGO) recently released a performance audit report of the revenue management practices of the Park Board. The audit determined that while some processes were used to inform fee-setting, the Park Board did not operate an effective framework for achieving revenue-related

7. objectives for its revenue-generating assets and services;
8. The AGO's audit report further noted that the Park Board's overall funding structure, as set out in the VC, requires it to obtain City Council approval for all expenditures, including the expenditure of funds generated from revenue-generating activities. The audit found that while the Park Board has strategies to guide the delivery of parks and recreation services, it had not proactively engaged with City Council to align its priorities with available funding;
9. Vancouver's parks, recreation, and cultural assets are prized by Vancouverites and visitors alike and must be protected, maintained, and preserved sustainably and in good working order for future generations;
10. The Park Board, for most practical intents, functions like any other department of the City, albeit as a separate entity with significant independent authority through its elected board;
11. Over the years, the Province has amended the VC numerous times to accommodate the changing needs and priorities of the city. Some amendments have been significant while others have been consequential and/or incidental to other legislation introduced by the Province; and
12. In recent years it has become abundantly clear, given the poor state of Vancouver's parks, recreation services, and infrastructure, that a fundamental change in governance structure is not only needed, it is the only viable path forward to an efficient and effective parks and recreation service for the people of Vancouver.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council formally request that the Province of British Columbia amend or repeal section 485 of the *Vancouver Charter* ("VC") to remove the requirement for an elected board of commissioners, variously referenced in legislation and elsewhere as the "Board of Parks and Recreation" and/or "Park Board", including any and all consequential and/or incidental amendments required to the VC and/or other related legislation, including that any and all legal obligations of the Park Board be assumed by the City, and

FURTHER THAT the legal capacity to exercise the powers currently bestowed on the Park Board under the VC, and the authority to enforce those powers, shall be devolved to and bestowed upon Council, and the delivery of parks and recreation services shall be administered by the City in accordance with Council direction, and

FURTHER THAT, in accordance with the above, Council formally request that the Province of British Columbia amend the process for revoking and/or cancelling the designation of areas designated as permanent public parks of the City under the VC, notably under section 488 of the VC ("Parks in care of Board"), to a unanimous vote of all Council members, along with provisions for a public referendum.

- B. THAT a Parks and Recreation Transition Working Group ("PRTWG") (Type D advisory body) be convened to facilitate the smooth transition of responsibility for park and recreation services, from the current oversight by an elected Park Board to the oversight of Council, and

FURTHER THAT the PRTWG shall have a time-limited mandate of six (6) months to coordinate the ongoing engagement and relationships with park and recreation stakeholders, supported by City staff, and be comprised of the Mayor, the Mayor's Chief of Staff, two City Councillors appointed by the Mayor, a current Park Board Commissioner appointed by the Mayor, and up to six (6) members of the public appointed by the Mayor, with Terms of Reference for the working group to be determined by the Mayor in consultation with, and under the advisement of, the City Manager and the General Manager of Parks and Recreation.

* * * * *

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You can unsubscribe at any time: [unsubscribe](#).

Thank you,
City of Vancouver
453 W 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

From: "Morphy, Mellisa" <Mellisa.Morphy@vancouver.ca>
To: "Kayla Iafelice" <Kayla.iafelice@wellingtonadvocacy.com>
CC: "Photi Sotiropoulos" <photi.sotiropoulos@wellingtonadvocacy.com>
Date: 4/11/2024 11:38:42 AM
Subject: RE: Supporting Docs

Hi Kayla + Photi,

Here is the interview: [Vancouver park board's process for setting, managing fees needs a reset: Audit - BC | Globalnews.ca](#)

Here is a different article: [Vancouver's auditor general finds park board can improve 'revenue management' - Vancouver Is Awesome](#)

Here is the AG report: <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/2023-park-board-revenue-management-audit-report.pdf>

Cheers,

Mellisa Morphy (*she/her*) | Deputy Chief of Staff + Director of Policy
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver
M: s.15(1)(l) O: 604-871-6582
mellisa.morphy@vancouver.ca



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

From: Kayla Iafelice <Kayla.iafelice@wellingtonadvocacy.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 1:28 PM
To: Morphy, Mellisa <Mellisa.Morphy@vancouver.ca>
Cc: Photi Sotiropoulos <photi.sotiropoulos@wellingtonadvocacy.com>
Subject: Supporting Docs

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Hey Mellisa,

Just had a thought, can you please share w us the language from the AG report pertaining to the parks and also the interview you had mentioned? If you think of anything else, by all means!

Thanks,

Kayla

Kayla lafelice

VP and National Practice Lead, Strategic
Communications

☎ 416-708-6292

🌐 wellingtonadvocacy.com [wellingtonadvocacy.com]



From: "Rowley, Cheryl" <Cheryl.Rowley@vancouver.ca>
To: "O'Connor, Patrick" <Patrick.O'Connor@vancouver.ca>
Date: 12/4/2023 2:14:47 PM
Subject: RE: URGENT - DRAFT MOTION - Amendment to the Vancouver Charter - December 3 2023 - FOR FINAL REVIEW.docx

Thanks Patrick J

From: O'Connor, Patrick <Patrick.O'Connor@vancouver.ca>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 2:05 PM
To: Rowley, Cheryl <Cheryl.Rowley@vancouver.ca>; Morphy, Mellisa <Mellisa.Morphy@vancouver.ca>; Ford, Trevor <Trevor.Ford@vancouver.ca>
Cc: Pavone, Connie <connie.pavone@vancouver.ca>; Mochrie, Paul <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
Subject: Re: URGENT - DRAFT MOTION - Amendment to the Vancouver Charter - December 3 2023 - FOR FINAL REVIEW.docx

Hi Cheryl,

Thanks for this. We're on it.

Patrick

From: Rowley, Cheryl <Cheryl.Rowley@vancouver.ca>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 1:59:49 PM
To: O'Connor, Patrick <Patrick.O'Connor@vancouver.ca>; Morphy, Mellisa <Mellisa.Morphy@vancouver.ca>; Ford, Trevor <Trevor.Ford@vancouver.ca>
Cc: Pavone, Connie <connie.pavone@vancouver.ca>; Mochrie, Paul <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
Subject: URGENT - DRAFT MOTION - Amendment to the Vancouver Charter - December 3 2023 - FOR FINAL REVIEW.docx

Hi everyone,

Paul asked me to forward you the attached draft motion which reflects some final recommendations from Law.

Thanks very much,

Cheryl Rowley (she/her)
Executive Assistant to the City Manager
City of Vancouver
E: Cheryl.rowley@vancouver.ca
T: 604.873.7628

From: "Rowley, Cheryl" <Cheryl.Rowley@vancouver.ca>
To: "O'Connor, Patrick" <Patrick.O'Connor@vancouver.ca>
"Morphy, Mellisa" <Mellisa.Morphy@vancouver.ca>
"Ford, Trevor" <Trevor.Ford@vancouver.ca>
CC: "Pavone, Connie" <connie.pavone@vancouver.ca>
"Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

Date: 12/4/2023 1:59:51 PM

Subject: URGENT - DRAFT MOTION - Amendment to the Vancouver Charter - December 3 2023
- FOR FINAL REVIEW.docx

Attachments: DRAFT MOTION - Amendment to the Vancouver Charter - December 3 2023 - FOR
FINAL REVIEW.docx

Hi everyone,

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Thanks very much,

Cheryl Rowley (she/her)
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